A true and faithfull Relation of the beſieging of the Towne of MANCHESTER in Lancaſhire upon Saturday the 24. of September.

Together with the manner of the ſeverall Skirmiſhes and Paſſages betwixt the Earle of *Derby* the beſieger with his 4500. men, and the Souldiers in the Town being only 1000. or thereabout.

Alſo a Declaration of the Lords and Commons in Parliament to the Inhabitants of the ſaid Towne.

And laſtly, the manner of the raiſing of the ſaid Siege, having continued untill Saturday the 1. of October, as it was credibly repreſented unto the Houſe of Commons from a godly Miniſter in the ſaid Towne, and appointed to be printed and publiſhed.

THe Towne of *Manchester* having ſome Malignants in it, and multitudes of Papiſts neere unto it, and being reputed a Religious and rich towne, hath been much envied and often threatned by the popiſh and Malignant partie, and therefore the Townes men being incouraged firſt by ſome Juſtices of the peace, afterwards by the Ordinance for the *Militia* did in a peaceable manner exerciſe and traine up their

youth in feates of Armes, whereby ſundry of them became skilfull Muſketiers and active Pikemen, and afterwards when the Lord *Strange* began to declare his oppoſition to the Lords and Commons in Parliament by raiſing of forces, and uttering divers menaces and threats againſt us and others that refuſe to joyne with him, (which were farre the greater part of all *Salford* hundred) Mr *Holland* of Denton, Maſter *Egerton* of Shagh, Mr *Eride* of Denton Deputie Lievetenants by the Ordinance of Parliament did adviſe and conſult with the Towne what was fitteſt to be done for the ſafetie of the Towne and Countrey adjacent, the reſult of which conſultation was to provide for their own ſafety by ſecuring the Towne, to encourage and aſſiſt them in which ſervice, God by his providence had a quarter of a yeere before ſent a German Engineer amongſt them, to whoſe skill, induſtry, Faithfulneſſe and Valour we owe (under God) much of our late preſervation; He was often ſolicited by Letters, Meſſengers and Promiſes of great preferment and rewards to ſerve the Lord *Strange*, but being unwilling to ſerve againſt the Parliament, he accepted of farre leſſe encouragement from us, and he gave directions for the chaining up and fortifying the ſeverall ends of the Towne, which was begun with diligence, but found oppoſition from divers of the Malignant party, which threatned to hinder the ſetting downe of the ſtoopes: But God by his providence ſo diſpoſed that on Thurſday the 13. of *September*, the Souldiers in Cheſhire under the command of Sir *Edward Fitton* and Maſter *Leigh* of Adlington did plunder, pillage, and diſarme his Majeſties loyall, proteſtant ſubjects, even of ſuch Armes as they had provided for the neceſſary defence of their owne houſes, which ſo awakened and affrighted the Countrey, that many hundred men were ſuddenly up in Armes in the Town of *Manchester*, which gave opportunity and facility for the ſetting downe of the ſtoopes, and the perfecting of the fortifications, which were not finiſht till about a day before his Lordſhip came againſt the Towne. Though we had no certain notice of the time of his comming, on Saterday night certaine Intelligence came to the Towne, that great forces were comming from Warrington againſt it, conducted by the Lord *Strange*, and (as we heare) by the Lord *Molineux*, Maſter Sheriffe, Sir *Gilbert Langton*, Sir *Alexander Radcliffe*, Sir *Gilbert Gerrard*, Maſter *Tildiſley*, Maſter *Standiſh* of Standiſh, Maſter *Preſtwich*, Maſter *Windebanke*, Serjeant Major *Danvers*, Serjeant Major *Sanders*, Maſter *Downes* of Wardley, Maſter

Master *Townly* of Townley, Master *Ashton* of Penkett junior, Master *Ogle*, Master *Byrom* of Birom, Master *Nowell* of Read, Master *Standish* of Duxburie his eldest sonne, Master *Cherrock*, Master *Farrington* of Merthen, Master *Holt* of Ashurst, Master *Rosterne* of Newhall junior, Mr *Tarbuck* of Tarbuck, Mr *Mountague*, with many others which assisted with men and Munition; about which time there were in towne about an hundred and fiftie of the Tenants of Master *Ashton* of Middleton in compleat Armes, under the command of Captaine *Bradshaw*, who with the towne forces under the command of Captaine *Radcliffe* did cheerefully and couragiously, upon the beating of the Drumme, repaire to the end of the Towne, resolving to maintaine the libertie of their persons, and the propriety of their goods, with the utmost hazard of their lives: The Bels were rung, and Posts immediately sent into the Countrey to give them notice, whereupon Master *Holland* of *Denton*, Captaine *Booth* son to Sir *George Booth* of Dunham, Master *Duckenfield* of Duckenfield, Master *Arderne* of Hardin, Master *Egerton* of Shagh, Master *Butterworth* of Belfield, Master *Lide* of Denton, Master *Lyde* of Norbury, Master *Cheetham* of Nuthurst, and others came with their Tenants, and well-affected Neighbours to assist the Towne; part of the Lord *Stranges* forces came through Cheshire, and part came on the other side of the River Irwell, the breaking of a wheele which carried their Ordnance retarded the Lord *Strange* his forces, that they came not in view of the Towne till about nine of the clock on Sunday morning, and at that time sundry companies and their colours appeared in open view: Then two Gentlemen were sent to know the reason of his comming in such a manner; his Lordship staid one of the Gentlemen for Hostage, and sent Captaine *Windebanke* to require entrance, and that he might march with his Armie into the Towne, which was unanimously denied him, this very day (as it is said) the Earle his Father died: On Munday the twentie sixt of September he sent another Message to the same purpose, promising to use the Towne kindly, otherwise fearfull ruines might ensue: But his requests were not granted, his threats were not feared: About twelve of the clock he began to play with his Cannon shot upon the Deans gate and Salford Bridge, the Bullets that were found weighed between foure and six pound weight, This afternoon the fight was hot on both sides, most of our men constantly charging and discharging to the great admiration and terrour of the enemies; The fight was first

begun by the Lord *Strange* his forces, which were in and about an house of Sir *Edward Mosleys* called the lodge, where they planted some of their Ordnance; and at the same time was seconded by an assault they made upon Salford bridge, they having possessed themselves of the Towne of Salford which adjoyneth to *Manchester*, save only the water betwixt, but did not joyne with them in a common defence. But God so ordered the matter that the Cannons plaid in vain, and therefore they assaid to enter the Towne, and to beat our men from their works, which being not able to doe, they sent some of their Souldiers to fire two barnes and eight or ten dwelling houses about 12. Roods from our workes, which being effected, the enemies with great shouting (The towne is our owne, the towne is our owne) renued their Assault, but by the valour and courage of Captain *Bradshaw* and his Souldiers, were beaten back and many of them slaine: The wind at the first blew the flame and smoke into the faces of our Souldiers to their great annoyance and the endangering of the Towne; But God that rides on the wings of the wind did very seasonably turn the wind till the rage of the fire was abated. Those forces that were in Salford endevoured to enter the Bridge, where they found so hot entertainement at the hands of Captain *Rosworme* the German Engineere before spoken of, and his Souldiers, that they were forced to retreat with the losse of some men, but having possessed themselves of an house at the foot of the Bridge, they continued shooting all night at our men. In this dayes fight, blessed be God, we lost not one man. On Tuesday morning a souldier was taken being mortally wounded, which confessed that he was one of the seven which set the barne on fire, he lived but a day after his apprehension: This day there was Assault made at other ends of the towne, especially at the Market street-lane end, but were valiantly resisted by Captain *Radcliffe* & his Company. Our men likewise sallied out, took divers prisoners, slew and put to flight divers that were straging in the fields, About five of the Clock his *Lordship* sounded for a parley, and sent a Message in writing which was as followeth: In obedience to his Maiesties commands, I have drawne some forces hither, with no intention of prejudice to your Town or any person in it, but to require your ready obedience to his Maiestie in yeilding your selves dutifully and chearfully into his protection; which I once more (so great is the value I sett upon the effusion of one drop of my Countryes bloud) Sommon you to, under this assurance

that no mans person or goods shall be harmed, so as you give up your Armes to be disposed of by me, according to his Majesties commands. But if you shall yet continue obstinate in your disobedience and resolve to stand it out, I will in that way proceed with all honour, by offering you a safe convoy of your women and children out of the Towne so as it be done immediately. *I. Derby.* The Gentlemen desired ten of the clock the next day to give in their answer, he granted till seuen: They promised mutually that all Acts of hostility should cease during that time, which was carefully performed on our side, and by meanes thereof our Souldiers being much wearied with watching three dayes and three nights before, got comfortable refreshing. But that very same night the Enemie was very busie plundring and pillaging many houses about the Towne to their great preiudice, if not utter undoing, and slew two of our neighbours of *Bouton*, which were coming peaceably with about 150 more to assist the Towne, and planted two ordnances in *Salford*, from which they were beare the next day by muskets shot from the Church-yard. On wednesday morning the Gentlemen returned this answer. May it please your honour to receive this answer to your Propositions, we are not conscious to our selves of any act committed by us, that we should in the least kind divest us his Maiesties Loyall subiects of his Loyall protection, nor of any disobedience to his Maiesties lawfull commands; for we can no way perswade our selves that his Maiestie that hath so often solemnly declared to rule his people by his lawes, and to preserve the propriety of our estates, should require us to give away our Armes which are under God one meanes of our lawfull defence against malignant Enemies and multitudes of Bloudy Papists, which do abound in our County, and had not God by his infinite mercy prevented had ere this day made the like Rebellion in our County, and committed the like barbarous outrage against us and others of the true Protestant Religion, as their brethren have done in *Ireland*, seeing they are acted by the like hellish principles as they: And we cannot but much wonder that your Honour should come against us in such an open hostile manner to take away our Armes, which is absolutely against all law, and the right of the subiect, which we are bound and resolved faithfully to maintaine according to our late solemne protestation, And we can by no meanes be assured by your Lordship of the safety of our persons

and goods if we deliver up our Armes, seeing since the treaty some of our Neighbours houses being protestants have been plundered or attempted to be plundered, and some of our friends cõming in a peaceable way to our relieſe, have been cruelly murdered & slain by some of your Souldiers. Some few houres after the Lord *Strange* sent Sir Iohn *Mounſon* to mediate, who said his honour would be content with part of the Armes, the Gentlemen referred it to the Souldiers, who all resolutely answered they would not give him a yard of match, but would maintaine their cause and Armes to the last drop of bloud. After this Message was returned, his Ordnances played upon the Towne againe, but did no harme, save onely that they killed one which stood gazing on the top of a stile; Thursday Captaine *Standish* was slaine by a bullet in *Salford*, who (as we heare) was reproaching his Souldiers because they would not fall on: Vpon his death his Souldiers fled, and other Souldiers by scores yea by hundreds daily fled away from the Lord *Strange*. There were slaine of his side as we heare 100. or 200. and some commanders of note, three whereof were buried at *Didsbury* upon Thursday. We lost but foure men, two by accident, two by the Enemie: Friday little was done, onely the Lord continued playing upon the Towne with the Ordnance and Musket shot from *Salford* and the lodge, and cast up a Trench before the end of the Deanes gate as if he had intended to have made long siege, the Ordnance did make holes in divers houses, and battered downe a piece of a Chimney, but did little harme. This night his Cannons were removed, on Saturday he sent that Prisoners might be exchanged for Prisoners, and that plundering might cease one both sides, it was answered that our side had not plundered any house, but his Lords-ships forces had plundered so many that ten thousand pounds would not make a recompence, Prisoners were exchanged according to his Lord-ships motion, about noone on Saturday his Forces removed away from about the Towne. Our Souldiers from first to last had prayers and singing of Psalmes dayly at the street ends, most of our Souldiers being Religious honest men, of a civill and inoffensive conversation, which came out of conscience of their Oath and protestation, the Townesmen were king and respective to the Souldiers, all things were common: the Gentlemen made bullets night and day: the Souldiers were resolute and courageous, and feared nothing so much as a Parly: the deputy Lieutenants, Captaine

Chantwell

Chaetwell and the other Gentlemen tooke paines night and day to see that the Souldiers did their duty: The Lord *Straunges* Souldiers some of them wept, others protested great unwillingnesse to fight against *Manchester*, affirming they were deceived and deluded, or else they had not come thither. Thus the Lord hath preserved an unwalled Towne from being destroyed or detained by a great Armie consisting as some say of 4000. some say 3000. seven pieces of Ordnance two hundred Dragoneeres, an hundred horsemen, To God alone be the Prayse.

October 11. Read and ordered to be printed.

FINIS.